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10/574,894	04/06/2006	Mitsuaki Morimoto	0033-1075PUS1	3375
2292 7590 05/13/2008 BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747				
EXAMINER MCNALLY, DANIEL				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1791				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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1. **Continuation of 11.** does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,001,203 "Yamada". The examiner maintains the previous rejections for the reasons stated below.

Applicant argues Yamada fails to teach or suggest the claimed setting step started after a delay of at least 90 seconds upon exposing the substrates to atmosphere as claimed in claim 1, the claimed setting step occurring a period of time after the bonding step and until said liquid crystal is spread to contact said sealant along substantially a whole periphery of said sealant of claim 5.

With regard to claim 1, Yamada discloses the attaching process is conducted a vacuum and a compression process is conducted at atmospheric pressure to obtain a uniform cell gap (column 5, lines 26-31; column 19, lines 19-23). As recited in paragraph 3 of the Office action dated 1/9/2008, when the assembly is under pressure the liquid crystals will spread, and the liquid crystals are considered to be spread before the step of setting because the layer of liquid crystal is continuous in Figure 5. With regard to the required delay of 90 seconds, as recited in paragraph 3 of the Office action dated 1/9/2008, it is a result of routine examination to find the amount of time necessary to uniformly distribute the liquid crystal material depend on the strength of the vacuum that is applied (column 19, lines 15-22). Yamada discloses compression forces are applied to the assembly by subjecting the assembly to atmospheric pressure after being attached in a vacuum, the delay would occur while the assembly is being

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compressed. The length of delay would be a result of the difference between the vacuum and atmospheric pressure.

With regard to claim 5, the applicant is referred to the above arguments.

/Daniel McNally/
Examiner, Art Unit 1791

/Jeff Aftergut/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1791

/DPM/
May 1, 2008